

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-15, and 17-22 are currently pending in the present application, with all but Claims 13 and 14 being amended. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to Claims 1, 11, 15, 17, and 19 for reasons of informalities. The Examiner further objected to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. These objections are traversed with respect to the claims as amended.

The Examiner indicated in the objections that the specification lacks antecedent basis for reciting “adjusting . . . according to the detected maximum signal level as to decrease the amplification gain as the maximum signal level increases.” The Examiner further remarked that the specification discloses only determining a maximum level for a given group of channels and determining a common multiplier signal according to this maximum detected signal. The Examiner maintained that the specification does not disclose “decreasing” the amplification rate based on the maximum signal detected. As explained below, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s observations.

As previously communicated, and again repeated herein, the present invention is directed to a method of adjusting levels of amplifiers in a multi-input channel audio system. Specifically, the recited method allows a user to separates the multi-channels into one or more groups of channels so as to provide the ability to process certain channels while isolating certain other channels from the processing. Each group is analyzed to detect a maximal signal level (from one of the input channels), and, in accordance with the detected maximal signal level, appropriate amplification gain of the input audio signals for that group is adjusted; the higher the detected maximal signal level, the less gain (decreased amplification rate, as provided in the Abstract) is required; this aspect of the

present invention is clearly summarized in, *inter alia*, Summary of the Invention section of the present application, in which the phrase “decreasing the amplification rate” is used throughout the section.

As previously explained, the amplification gain as recited in the claims corresponds to the multiplier signal as disclosed in the specification. For instance, as the Examiner pointed out, paragraph [0061] of the published application (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0008851 A1) provides that numeral “70” denotes a gain control unit that determines a multiplier gain (i.e., a multiplier signal) using the maximum value as an input level according to a characteristic curve such as shown in Fig. 4.

Specifically, Fig. 4 of the present application illustrates an input/output gain characteristic of a compressor unit. In Fig. 4, the gain (i.e., amplification) is indicated as the tangent of the input/output characteristic curve; more specifically, a gain is shown as the tangent of each illustrated point (x, y) on the input/output characteristic curve (x/y curve). When the level of the input signal (x) changes, the gain (x/y) changes along the curve shown in Fig. 4; in particular, Fig. 4 clearly illustrates (via the dot and dash line of the characteristic curve), as an input signal exceeds a threshold (“Th”), a compressor adjusts the amplification from a steep gain to a more level gain (i.e., attenuate the output signal). This aspect of the invention is clearly disclosed in paragraph [0046] of the published application. Applicants have amended the pending claims to apply more consistent language as the terms are used in the specification, and submit that all of the pending claims are fully supported by the specification.

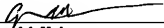
Applicants also take this opportunity to amend other aspects of the claims to further clarify the scope of the invention claims. Applicants note that the last wherein clause of amended Claims 11 and 19 are supported by the specification at paragraph [0070] of the published application.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that each of the presently pending claims of the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at anytime with any further questions or clarifications regarding the claimed subject matter.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 393032038900. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Glenn M. Kubota
Registration No.: 44,197
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
555 W. Fifth Street, Suite 3500
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 892-5587
Attorneys for Applicant